



The Connector

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Did you Know?

- US Ambassador to Sweden Matthew Barzun welcomed members from the US Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities who attended the European Green Capitals Conference.
- Sam Houston was the only Governor to serve as Governor of two States (Texas and Tennessee) and as President of a country (The Republic of Texas).

Using All Tools at our Disposal: 21st Century Diplomacy and Climate Change

Secretary Clinton, announced on December 11th that the Cancun Agreements secured "...a set of balanced international decisions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which represent meaningful progress in our global response to climate change." Acknowledging that no nation however large or small, wealthy or poor, can escape the impact of climate change, Secretary Clinton highlighted the need for collaboration between countries and action at all levels.

On December 6th, two subnational panels convened at the UNFCCC Convention of Parties 16 (COP16) U. S. Center in Cancun. Then-Governor of New Mexico Bill Richardson delivered the keynote address to the panel "*Using All Tools at*

Our Disposal," organized by S/SRGIA. Gov. Richardson supported U. S. policies promoting renewable energy entrepreneurship and the role of the state and local governments from around the world. Gov. Richardson advised everyone to work at all levels to reach success. He also encouraged participants to create "templates for continued progress," to meet that goal.

Ricardo Martinez, California Environmental Protection Agency's Deputy Secretary for Border Affairs, Doug Scott, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director and J. Jared Snyder New York Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation presented the Western, the Midwestern and the Eastern State perspectives on combating climate change. Lauren Faber, California Environmental Protection Agency's



Secretary Clinton discussing climate change.

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Assistant Secretary for Climate Change, emphasized that California is just one of many states forging ahead with climate change and renewable energy action plans. The Georgetown Climate Center, in partnership with S/SRGIA, organized a session on "*U. S. State and Local Climate Leadership*," which discussed the diverse impacts and responses of the states to the climate change challenge.

The Center for Climate Strategies sponsored a side event "*It's Hard to Build a Skyscraper from the Sky Down*." (cont. 3)

President Obama Announces U.S. Support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In a historic announcement, President Obama announced on December 16th at the White House Tribal Nations Conference that the United States is lending its support to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. President Obama also stated that further details regarding U.S. support for the Declaration and the Administration's ongoing work in Indian Country could be found in [the statement accompanying his remarks](#).

This announcement is the culmination of the U.S. government's yearlong



"The aspirations [the Declaration] affirms -- including the respect for the institutions and rich cultures of Native peoples -- are ones we must always seek to fulfill."

- President Barack Obama

DoS Photo

interagency review of the U.S. position on the UN Declaration.

During this review, U.S. agencies consulted with tribal leaders during a series of consultations. Additionally, agencies conducted outreach meetings with indigenous organizations and other interested parties to solicit their input on the Declaration.

As a result, the U.S. government received over 3,000 written comments, with an overwhelming majority of the comments calling for the United (cont. 3)



The State of Pennsylvania and Nigerian Governors Agree on State-Level Cooperation as Part of the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission: Niger Delta Sessions

“The Commission will seek to make progress in many areas... First, we will work together on good governance and transparency, which are essential to Nigeria’s democracy and its prosperity.”

— **Secretary Clinton, April 6, 2010**

In support of the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission Secretary Clinton launched in April 2010, S/SRGIA, in cooperation with the Bureau of African Affairs, programmed a visit of a Niger Delta Governors delegation to Pennsylvania in September. This visit culminated in a meeting with then-Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell. He announced a visitors program partnership between Pennsylvania and Rivers and Delta states on Jan. 11, 2011.

Gov. Rendell’s meeting with the Nigerian delegation, including

Rivers State Governor Rotimi Amaechi and the economic development director for Delta State Governor

Emmanuel Uduaghan, was the highlight of the governors’ program. Gov. Rendell shared his perspective on state leadership and discussed ways in which



Then-Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell introduces Nigerian leaders at the Pennsylvania Capital on January 11, 2011.
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Pennsylvania and Nigeria state governments could collaborate in the future.

The Pennsylvania meetings involved other state and local officials from the Commonwealth, including mayors,

representatives, council members, and academics, coordinated with the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities. The meetings explored the local leaders’ (cont. 4)

Update: State Government’s Climate Change Discussions

“One component of our success is measuring... challenges accurately and coming up with a thoughtful and effective solution [involving collaboration].”

— **Special Rep. Lewis, Nov. 16, 2010**

Special Representative Lewis delivered a keynote address to the closing session of the Governors’ Global Climate Change Summit 3 (GGCS3) “Global Impact and Collaboration” held at the University of California-Davis November 16, 2010. Then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced that more than thirty state and local governments in at least three countries were supporting a consortium aimed at raising

funds for climate change issues.

The speakers at the conference included subnational government officials from Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Israel, Italy, Mexico, and the Philippines who contributed to the discussions and presentations on climate change action at the GGCS3. Other well-known speakers included Dr. Rajendra Pachauri and actor and environmental activist Harrison Ford.



Special Rep. Lewis at the GGCS3 with state and local leaders from around the world including then-Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger (far right).
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NCSL and NACo Create New International Relations Task Forces

“We believe building partnerships with subnationals creates a multiplier effect, and there is no telling of the heights we can reach together.”

— **Special Rep. Lewis, December 11, 2010**

Special Representative Lewis and S/SRGIA congratulate the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the National Association of Counties (NACo) on their individual creations of international task forces. NCSL’s Task Force on International Relations is co-

chaired by Illinois State Senator Pamela Althoff and New Hampshire State Representative Terie Norelli. NACo’s International Economic Development Task Force is co-chaired by Supervisor Valerie Brown of Sonoma County, CA and Councilmember Nestor Garcia of Honolulu, HI.

S/SRGIA looks forward to working with both groups. Special Rep. Lewis already met NACo’s co-chairs and spoke to NCSL’s task force during its inaugural meeting at the NCSL Fall Forum in December.



21st Century Diplomacy and Climate Change Continued



Special Rep. Lewis delivering her remarks during COP16 in the U.S. Center in Cancun, Mexico. Then-Governor Bill Richardson is to her right.
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(from 1) Representatives from China and the United States emphasized the role of local and state governments in combating climate change in each country and highlighted an ongoing exchange between Guangdong province in China and the State of

New York. This exchange is one of the partnerships that Special Rep. Lewis emphasized in her remark "It takes trusted partnerships and collaborations... in spite of the differences in regional climate changes and their resulting impacts."

"In the days and months ahead, the United States will work with our friends and partners to keep the world focused on this urgent challenge and to continue building on this progress."

— **Secretary Hillary Clinton, Dec. 11, 2010.**

Declaration Continued

(from 1) States to support the Declaration.

U.S. support for the Declaration is a continuation of a U.S. commitment to address the consequences of history. This steadfast commitment is reflected in the various policies and programs U.S. agencies are implementing in direct response to issues of concern to indigenous leaders, including poverty, environmental degradation, unemployment, health care gaps, violent crime, and discrimination.

African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum Engaged State and Local Leaders for First Time

"[We] sponsored [AWEP] because we know from experience across the world that women-run small- and medium-sized enterprises that are in the formal economy provide a major boost to a country's GDP." — **Secretary Clinton, Aug. 3, 2010**

The ninth annual Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum, and the coinciding African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP), were hosted in the United States in August. The events took place in Washington, D.C. and Kansas City, Missouri.

In furtherance of Secretary Clinton's directive to include state and local governments in the Department of State's foreign policy, S/SRGIA collaborated with the Department's Bureaus of African Affairs; Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs; Educational and Cultural Affairs; and the Office of

Global Women's Issues to facilitate several opportunities for state and local level participation in AGOA and AWEP events.



Secretary Clinton greets the group of African women entrepreneurs at the AGOA forum in Washington, DC.
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During the AGOA Forum, which convenes annually to promote economic development through trade preferences to eligible sub-Saharan countries, S/SRGIA assisted the participation of both Missouri and Kansas officials and representatives in Kansas City to promote the agribusiness focus of 2010's Forum. Kansas City, Kansas Mayor, Joe Reardon, and Kansas Secretary of Commerce, Bill Thornton, opened the Forum, encouraging economic advancement through business networking. The following morning, Mayor (cont. 4)

Department of State Supports Global Citizen Diplomacy Summit and National Guard State Partnership Program

"Expanding and strengthening people-to-people connections is the life blood of our public diplomacy efforts and it is central to our foreign policy and national security." — **Secretary Clinton, Nov. 16, 2010**

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivered the opening message to the *U.S. Summit and Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy* in Washington, D.C. on November 18th, encouraging everyone to become a citizen diplomat.

At the Summit, Special Representative Lewis joined then-Wisconsin Lt. Governor Barbara

Lawton's roundtable on "The Role of States in Global Citizen Diplomacy," highlighting the benefits of the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) for U.S. military-to-military partnership with other countries.

Special Rep. Lewis noted in her speech that feedback from U.S. Embassies on the SPP is over-

whelmingly positive, indicating that the SPP is an important element of U.S. subnational engagement that supports Secretary Clinton's 21st Century Diplomacy goals.



Nigeria Binational Commission Continued



From left to right: then-Secretary of Transportation Alan Biehler, Anita Laz Nwokefor from Rivers State, Aleruchi Cooley Gam from Rivers State, then-Gov. Rendell, Ibim Semenitari from Rivers State, and Chris Reilly of PennDot, after Nigeria and Pennsylvania signed the MOU.
DoS Photo

(from 2) perspective on issues such as community services, good governance, education, and economic development. Then-Speaker Keith McCall formally introduced the Nigerian Delegation on the Pennsylvania House floor.

Governors Amaechi and Uduaghan also attended meetings in Washington, D.C. that included a *Governor's Working Luncheon* and *Transparency and State Governance Meeting* with Maryland State Treasurer Nancy Kopp. The Nigerian delegation met with D.C. Court of Appeals with Chief Judge Eric Washington and Judge Inez Smith Reid to discuss rule of law and government transparency.

AGOA Continued

(from 3) Mark Funkhouser of Kansas City, Missouri welcomed the active engagement with the Department of State with state and local governments.

S/SRGIA also hosted a session for African Ministers and African women entrepreneurs on *Local Level Government Advocacy*, which included state and local government leaders from: Maryland; Washington, D.C.; Kansas City, KS; St. Louis; and the State of Missouri. Both sessions provided reviews of key aspects of advocacy, including interacting with subnational leaders, encouraging economic inclusion, increasing women's empowerment and providing

successful marketing and communications strategies. The African women entrepreneur participants gained valuable information and tools to assist them in furthering successful businesses in their respective countries.



Special Rep. Lewis with Kansas City, MO Mayor Mark Funkhouser at AGOA.
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Special Representative Lewis Discusses Future of Resilient Cities



Special Rep. Lewis with Paris, France Mayor Bertrand Delanoë at the UCLG Summit in Mexico City, Mexico Nov. 2010.
DoS Photo

"Local governments and our local communities are able to realize thoughtful and effective solutions in the stand-off against threats to our planet."
— *Special Rep. Lewis Nov. 20, 2010*

Working to fulfill Secretary Clinton's plan to engage leaders at all levels of government, Special Representative Lewis participated in the Local and Regional Leaders World Summit

2010 in Mexico City in November. Sponsored by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the summit convened mayors, presidents, local elected officials, and their

counterparts to discuss the role of local governments and the future of governance.

During a plenary session, Special Rep. Lewis discussed how local and regional governments can partner to improve global governance with the overall goal of providing thoughtful and effective solutions to the threats to our planet.

In the Next Issue of The Connector

- Secretary Clinton and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang signed an MOU creating the Governors' Forum, and S/SRGIA hosts forum for state and local leaders on expanding the relationship with China.
- With the upcoming Military Games, 2014 World Cup, and 2016 Summer Olympics all in Brazil, S/SRGIA is engaging US state and local leaders to collaborate with their Brazilian counterparts.

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